

Claims

1. Method for labelling a package (10), particularly one filled with cigarettes, which includes a packing element (11) for holding the product to be packed as well as a wrapping (12) at least partially surrounding the packing element (11), characterised by the following steps:
 - during the process of manufacturing the package (10), at least one individual code (14) which is allocated once only is applied to the packing element (11) and/or the wrapping (12) and stored in a storage medium,
 - during the process of manufacturing the package (10), furthermore at least one property characteristic of the packing element (11) and/or the wrapping (12) is detected as a measurable variable,
 - the measurable variable is assigned to the code (14) belonging to the packing element (11) and/or wrapping (12) in the storage medium to form a unique data record.
2. Method according to claim 1, characterised in that the code (14) is printed and/or stamped.
3. Method according to claim 1 or 2, characterised in that the code (14) is detected and then filed in the storage medium.
4. Method according to any one of claims 1 to 3, characterised in that in addition a scanning mark (16) is applied to the packing element (11) and/or wrapping (12).
5. Method according to claim 4, characterised in that the position and overlap width of a joint seam (15) of the wrapping (12) relative to the scanning mark (16) is determined as a measurable variable.

6. Method according to any one of claims 1 to 4, characterised in that deviations of the position (d , e , α , β) of folds and/or cut edges and/or overlap regions of the wrapping (12) are determined as a measurable variable.
7. Method according to any one of claims 1 to 4, characterised in that patterns (17, 18) which form due to joining or closing the wrapping are determined as a measurable variable.
8. Method according to any one of claims 1 to 7, characterised in that the code (14) and the measurable variable are detected optically and processed electronically.
9. Method for identifying a package (10), particularly one filled with cigarettes, which includes a packing element (11) for holding the product to be packed as well as a wrapping (12) at least partially surrounding the packing element (11), characterised by the following steps:
 - detection of at least one individual code (14) which is applied to the packing element (11) and/or the wrapping (12) and allocated once only,
 - detection of at least one property characteristic of the packing element (11) and/or the wrapping (12) as a measurable variable,
 - comparison of the detected code (14) and measurable variable with a unique data record for each package (10) which is stored in a storage medium during manufacture of the package (10) and composed of code (14) and measurable variable.
10. Method according to claim 9, characterised in that the position and overlap width of a joint seam (15) of the wrapping (12) relative to a scanning mark (16) applied

to the packing element (11) and/or wrapping (12) is determined as a measurable variable.

11. Method according to claim 9, characterised in that deviations of the position (d, e, α , β) of folds and/or cut edges and/or overlap regions of the wrapping (12) are determined as a measurable variable.
12. Method according to claim 9, characterised in that patterns (17, 18) which form due to joining or closing the wrapping are determined as a measurable variable.
13. Method according to any one of claims 9 to 12, characterised in that the code (14) and measurable variable are detected optically and processed electronically.
14. Device for labelling a package (10), particularly one filled with cigarettes, which includes a packing element (11) for holding the product to be packed as well as a wrapping (12) at least partially surrounding the packing element (11), characterised in that the device includes means for detecting at least one property characteristic of the packing element (11) and/or the wrapping (12) as a measurable variable as well as a storage medium for storing the detected measurable variable, wherein the means and the storage medium are connected to each other via a personal computer (PC) or the like for assigning the measurable variable to an individual code (14) for the package (10) which is allocated once only and filed in the storage medium.
15. Device according to claim 14, characterised in that the device has means for applying the code (14).
16. Device for identifying a package (10), particularly one filled with cigarettes, which includes a packing element (11) for holding the product to be packed as well as a wrapping (12) at least partially surrounding the packing element (11), characterised in that the device includes means for detecting at least one property

characteristic of the packing element (11) and/or the wrapping (12) as a measurable variable as well as a storage medium for storing the detected measurable variable, wherein the means and the storage medium are connected to each other via a personal computer (PC) or the like for comparing an individual code (14) which is allocated once only and the detected measurable variable of the package (10) to be identified, with a unique data record for each package (10) stored in the storage medium beforehand and composed of code (14) and measurable variable.

17. Package, in particular cigarette package, with a packing element (11) for holding e.g. cigarettes, wherein the packing element (11) is provided with a thin, preferably film-like wrapping (12), characterised in that an individual code (14) readable from the outside and allocated once only is applied to the packing element (11) and/or wrapping (12), and in addition a scanning mark (16) or the like is provided for detection of a characteristic property of the packing element (11) and/or wrapping (12) as a measurable variable.
18. Package according to claim 17, characterised in that the wrapping (12) itself is the scanning mark (16).
19. Package according to claim 17, characterised in that the scanning mark (16) is arranged on the packing element (11).
20. Package according to claim 17, characterised in that the scanning mark (16) is arranged on the wrapping (12).
21. Package according to claim 19 or 20, characterised in that the scanning mark (16) is arranged in the region of a joint seam (15) of the wrapping (12).
22. Package according to any one of claims 19 to 21, characterised in that the scanning mark (16) is stationarily attached to the packing element (11) and/or to the wrapping (12).

23. Package according to any one of claims 19 to 22, characterised in that the scanning mark (16) is stationarily attached relative to the characteristic property to be detected.
24. Package according to any one of claims 19 to 23, characterised in that the scanning mark (16) is composed of print, stamping or the like which is to be found on the package (10) anyway.